

law, the applicant has the legal authority to extract the coal by those methods.

(c) Nothing in this section shall be construed to provide the regulatory authority with the authority to adjudicate property rights disputes.

#### **§ 778.16 Status of unsuitability claims.**

(a) An application shall contain available information as to whether the proposed permit area is within an area designated as unsuitable for surface coal mining and reclamation operations or is within an area under study for designation in an administrative proceeding under parts 762, 764, and 769 of this chapter.

(b) An application in which the applicant claims the exemption described in § 762.13(c) of this chapter shall contain information supporting the assertion that the applicant made substantial legal and financial commitments before January 4, 1977, concerning the proposed surface coal mining and reclamation operations.

(c) An application that proposes to conduct surface coal mining operations within 100 feet of a public road or within 300 feet of an occupied dwelling must meet the requirements of § 761.14 or § 761.15 of this chapter, respectively.

[48 FR 44399, Sept. 28, 1983, as amended at 64 FR 70837, Dec. 17, 1999]

#### **§ 778.17 Permit term.**

(a) Each application shall state the anticipated or actual starting and termination date of each phase of the surface coal mining and reclamation operation and the anticipated number of acres of land to be affected during each phase of mining over the life of the mine.

(b) If the applicant requires an initial permit term in excess of 5 years in order to obtain necessary financing for equipment and the opening of the operation, the application shall—

(1) Be complete and accurate covering the specified longer term; and

(2) Show that the proposed longer term is reasonably needed to allow the applicant to obtain financing for equipment and for the opening of the operation with the need confirmed, in writing, by the applicant's proposed source of financing.

#### **§ 778.18 Insurance.**

An application shall contain either a certificate of liability insurance or evidence of self-insurance in compliance with § 800.60 of this chapter.

#### **§ 778.21 Proof of publication.**

A copy of the newspaper advertisements of the application for a permit, significant revision of a permit, or renewal of a permit, or proof of publication of the advertisements which is acceptable to the regulatory authority shall be filed with the regulatory authority and shall be made a part of the application not later than 4 weeks after the last date of publication as required by § 773.6(a)(1) of this chapter.

[48 FR 44399, Sept. 28, 1983, as amended at 65 FR 79669, Dec. 19, 2000]

#### **§ 778.22 Facilities or structures used in common.**

The plans of a facility or structure that is to be shared by two or more separately permitted mining operations may be included in one permit application and referenced in the other applications. In accordance with part 800 of this chapter, each permittee shall bond the facility or structure unless the permittees sharing it agree to another arrangement for assuming their respective responsibilities. If such agreement is reached, then the application shall include a copy of the agreement between or among the parties setting forth the respective bonding responsibilities of each party for the facility or structure. The agreement shall demonstrate to the satisfaction of the regulatory authority that all responsibilities under this chapter for the facility or structure will be met.

### **PART 779—SURFACE MINING PERMIT APPLICATIONS—MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS FOR INFORMATION ON ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES**

Sec.

779.1 Scope.

779.2 Objectives.

779.4 Responsibilities.

779.10 Information collection.

779.11 General requirements.